

Message Text

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53

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SAM-01 SAB-01 IO-10 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /074 W

----- 016555

R 111228Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY MBABANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8244

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L MBABANE 1157

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EG, IS, WZ

SUBJECT: SIMON NXUMALO'S VISIT TO THE MIDDLE EAST

1. ON JULY 9, SWAZI BORADCASTING SERVICE ANNOUNCED THAT MINISTER OF INDUSTRY SIMON NXUMALO HAD LEFT THAT DAY FOR A ONE-WEEK TRIP TO THE MIDDLE EAST AND EUROPE.

2. THIS REPORT HAS AN INTERESTING BACKGROUND. IN EARLY JUNE, THE EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR VISITED SWAZILAND TO DELIVER A PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT SADAT TO THE KING, EXPLAINING EGYPT'S POSITION IN THE CURRENT MIDDLE EAST NEGOTIATIONS AND DEPLORING THE SERIES OF VISITS WHICH GOS CABINET MINISTERS HAVE BEEN PAYING TO ISRAEL. THE MESSAGE URGED THAT SWAZILAND JOIN WITH OTHER AFRICAN STATES IN PUTTING PRESSURE ON ISRAEL AND INCLUDED AN INVITATION FOR A GOS MINISTER TO VISIT EGYPT. THE ISRAELI CHARGE WAS SHOWN A COPY OF THE NOTE BY THE GOS FOREIGN MINISTRY AND PREPARED A REBUTTAL. KING SOBHUZA THEN DECIDED TO SEND ON OF HIS MINISTERS TO VISIT EGYPT. MINISTER SIMON NXUMALO WAS SELECTED FOR THIS TRIP. IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN SWAZILAND'S "BALANCED" POSITION, HOWEVER, THIS SAME
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MINISTER IS ALSO SCHEDULED TO VISIT ISRAEL WITHIN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS.

3. SIMON NXUMALO IS SWAZILAND'S MOST EXPERIENCED DIPLOMATIC TRAVELER AND FREQUENTLY GOES ON MISSIONS ABROAD FOR THE KING. IF ANYONE CAN PERFORM THIS DELICATE BALANCING ACT, HE CAN.
LANE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MINISTERIAL VISITS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MBABAN01157
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750240-0585
From: MBABANE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750765/aaaacfuy.tel
Line Count: 67
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 AUG 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <28 NOV 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SIMON NXUMALO'S VISIT TO THE MIDDLE EAST
TAGS: PFOR, EG, IS, WZ, (NXUMALO, SIMON)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006